January 25, 1970

Dear Harold,

I just got a whole package of letters from you, and I'll take them in order of dates. Before you read further, I have to mention that there is some mix-up about the dates of my visit. I previously suggested Feb. 12 to 16 because I have the 12 & 13 off from school. However, I did not realize that this coming Friday(Jan. 30) is also a day off of school between semesters. That means no schoolwork for me and is about the best time for me to come. The thing is this: I'd like to read the PM's over(at least two days for that), plus the other things which you know are numerous. I think the best thing might be a set-up just like we had last time, a Friday to Monday, this coming weekend being my freest. I think I'll be calling you this Wed., Feb. 4 to settle this. Now, Harold, I don 't want to make a pig out of myself (and I feel I just may be doing so) so if I'm in any way imposing on you, don't hesitate to let me know. You know you don't have to make any fancy preparations for me for I can get by on almost anything. The hospitality last time was far more than I ever expected, and I hope that didn't put you out. Right now, Jan. 30 to Feb. 2 is best for me. If four days is too much, come right out and say it. I suggest it only because of the amount of work to be done. You'll be hearing from me, and I'm sure we can settle this. (Suddenly I feel as if I am pushing myself on you, which is not my intent. Please don't hesitate to speak up.)

Your 1/14 to Dick: Today I also got Dick's memo on 399. It seems good. But, for both his points and yours of the cut-away fragment, I'll have to wait till I get your photo before I conclude. Right now, I can't find what you speak of in the blow up or the original of my base picture. The other one(yours) should clear this all up so I'll have to hang on.

1/18 on 35mm. negative Z copy: I think there is a good chance to improve the quality of your copy of Z which is far superior to mine. I hope your friend is experienced in this for the results(if done properly) could be helpful. About Bishop, I ask how many copies of Z has Newcomb sold, specifically to Dallas people. Bishop could have had a copy of that. I'm sure there must have been some other copies of Z made on its way to LIFE. Also, is there anyone in the Archives who would duplicate their copy on a personal basis. I think LIFE has given (or sold) some copies of the film to certain people such as Tink. I know for a fact that he has color blow-ups of the original frames from LIFE, and I have reaaon to believe he also has a copy of the film itself.

1/19 to me: More came out of the Fillinger interview than I thought. When you read the transcript, you may find more. As I said before, there is a surprise in it for you.

1/22 to me: We'll talk about the Specter interview, and now I'll read some of the memo's by him you dug up more carefully...I think it is more important than you seem to admit to obtain technical proof for some of these things(slits, 399 base). Without it, we leave ourselves open--why not have the most air-tight case possible?

I didn't make a carbon of this for Dick so I'll explain about the Tink measurements in a letter to him and carbon to you since I want you both to know.

All for now. You should hear from me Wednesday evening. Like I say, you tell me what's best for you.

Howard